

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Amended) A device comprising:
  - a distribution component to be maintained on a vessel neck having an external wall, the component having an operating rod;
  - a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining an internal wall and an external wall, with the internal wall to contact the external wall of the neck, the ring having a through opening for the operating rod; and
  - a lining collar surrounding the skirt of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall, the ring and the collar extending about an axially vertical axis, the ring and the collar being definitively secured on the neck,
  - characterized in that the external wall of the skirt is formed with longitudinal external ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the skirt, said external ribs coming in fitting contact against the internal wall of the collar.
2. (Previously Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the internal wall of the skirt is radially distorted inwards at the external ribs.
3. (Previously Amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein, before the retainer ring is fitted into the lining collar, the internal wall of the skirt is cylindrical and the ribs together define a maximum diameter greater than the inside diameter of the lining collar.
4. (Previously Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the internal wall of the skirt is formed with longitudinal internal ribs extending axially vertically over the height of

the skirt.

5. (Previously Amended) The device according to claim 4, wherein the internal ribs are angularly offset from the external ribs so that one internal rib is located between two external ribs and vice versa.

6. (Previously Amended) The device according to claim 5, wherein the external wall of the skirt, between the external ribs, is at a distance from the internal wall of the lining collar so as to create an intermediate clearance.

7. (Previously Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the external ribs are evenly distributed around the skirt.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of assembling a device for fastening a distribution component on a vessel neck, said fastening device comprising:

a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining an internal wall and an external wall, with the internal wall to contact the neck, the external wall of the skirt being formed with longitudinal external ribs extending from the top of the skirt; and

a lining collar defining an internal wall and an external wall,

the method comprising the step of force-fitting the ring into the collar, with the external ribs coming in abutting contact against the internal wall of the collar so as to displace the ribs

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radially inwards and thereby distorting the internal wall of the skirt radially inwards.

9. (Withdrawn) The assembly method according to claim 8, wherein the step of force-fitting the ring into the collar is performed before the fastening device is installed on a vessel neck.

10. (Previously Amended) A device comprising:  
a distribution component to be mounted on a vessel neck having an external wall, the component having an operating rod;  
a retainer ring comprising a sleeve and a skirt defining an internal wall and an external wall, with the internal wall of the skirt to contact the external wall of the neck, the ring having a through opening for the operating rod; and  
a lining collar surrounding the skirt and the sleeve of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall, the ring and the collar extending about an axial vertical axis, the ring and the collar being definitively secured on the neck,  
characterized in that the external wall of the skirt and the sleeve is formed with longitudinal external ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the skirt and the sleeve, said external ribs coming in fitting contact against the internal wall of the collar.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the distribution component is a pump.

13. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the distribution component is a valve.

14. (New) A device that includes components for installation on the neck of a vessel having an external wall defined by a radial thickening projecting radially outwardly from the portion of the vessel neck below the radial thickening, said device comprising:

a distribution component adapted to be maintained on the vessel neck and having an operating rod;

a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining (1) an internal wall adapted to contact the external wall of the neck, (2) an external wall, and (3) a through opening for the operating rod; and

a lining collar surrounding the skirt of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall, the ring and the collar extending about an axially vertical axis, the ring and the collar being definitively secured on the vessel neck,

characterized in that the external wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with longitudinal external ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the retainer ring skirt, said external ribs coming in fitting contact against the internal wall of the lining collar and extending to a

location below said vessel neck radial thickening when said device is assembled on said vessel neck.

15. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein  
the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is radially distorted inwards at the external ribs;  
and

before the retainer ring is fitted into the lining collar, the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is cylindrical, and the external ribs together define a maximum diameter greater than the inside diameter of the lining collar.

16. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein  
the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with longitudinal internal ribs  
extending axially vertically over the height of the skirt;

the internal ribs are angularly offset from the external ribs so that one internal rib is located between two external ribs and vice versa; and

the external wall of the retainer ring skirt, between the external ribs, is spaced radially inwardly from the internal wall of the lining collar so as to create an intermediate clearance.

17. (New) A device comprising:  
a distribution component to be maintained on a vessel neck having an external wall, the component having an operating rod;

a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining (1) an internal wall adapted to contact the external wall of the neck, (2) an external wall, and (3) a through opening for the operating rod; and

a lining collar surrounding the skirt of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall, the ring and the collar extending about an axially vertical axis;

characterized in that the external wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with longitudinal external ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the retainer ring skirt, said external ribs coming in fitting contact against the internal wall of the lining collar, said external ribs each having a height, each said external rib contacting said internal wall of said lining collar over the entire height of said external rib.

18. (New) The device according to claim 17, wherein the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is radially distorted inwards at the external ribs; and

before the retainer ring is fitted into the lining collar, the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is cylindrical, and the external ribs together define a maximum diameter greater than the inside diameter of the lining collar.

19. (New) The device according to claim 17, wherein

the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with longitudinal internal ribs

extending axially vertically over the height of the skirt;

the internal ribs are angularly offset from the external ribs so that one internal rib is located between two external ribs and vice versa; and

the external wall of the retainer ring skirt, between the external ribs, is spaced radially inwardly from the internal wall of the lining collar so as to create an intermediate clearance.

20. (New) A device for fastening a distribution component on a vessel neck having an external wall, said device comprising:

a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining an external wall and an internal wall adapted to contact the external wall of the vessel neck;

a lining collar surrounding the skirt of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall;

characterized in that the external wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with circumferentially spaced, longitudinal external ribs, at least part of the circumference of said retainer ring skirt having a plurality of ribless portions which each extends between two of said external ribs and which deform radially within the lining collar to define an arc configuration after assembly of said lining collar around said retainer ring, whereby said ribless portions contact said lining collar internal wall, and said external ribs contact said lining collar internal wall.

21. (New) The fastening device according to claim 20, wherein the internal wall of

the retainer ring skirt is radially distorted inwards at the external ribs; and

before the retainer ring is fitted into the lining collar, the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is cylindrical and the external ribs together define a maximum diameter greater than the inside diameter of the lining collar.

22. (New) The device according to claim 20, wherein

the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with longitudinal internal ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the retainer ring skirt;

the internal ribs are angularly offset from the external ribs so that one internal rib is located between two external ribs and vice versa; and

the external ribs are evenly distributed around the retainer ring skirt.